

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 36

2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Leonard Tsosie

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7  
8 FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT CONGRESS INCREASE FUNDING TO THE BUREAU OF  
12 INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO ENFORCE  
13 CURRENT REPATRIATION STATUTES.

14  
15 WHEREAS, Native American sacred places are being  
16 desecrated or threatened by development, pollution, poisons,  
17 recreation, looting and vandalism and by federal or federally  
18 authorized undertakings; and

19 WHEREAS, numerous laws intended to protect Native American  
20 sacred places and additional laws that could be used to do so  
21 are in existence, but most of these laws are being ignored; and

22 WHEREAS, unscrupulous dealers, looters and collectors  
23 affiliated with New Mexico's galleries are trafficking Native  
24 American ancestral remains and sacred objects; and

25 WHEREAS, numerous internet sites sell and auction Native

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1 American ancestral remains and sacred objects; and

2 WHEREAS, a lack of federal staff exists to enforce current  
3 statutes, with only one bureau of Indian affairs officer having  
4 responsibility for monitoring the theft and sale of Native  
5 American sacred objects throughout the entire country;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to increase  
8 funding to the bureau of Indian affairs for additional  
9 enforcement officers to enforce current repatriation statutes;  
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional  
13 delegation, the bureau of Indian affairs, the New Mexico office  
14 of Indian affairs, the museum of Indian arts and culture, the  
15 institute of American Indian arts and the New Mexico historic  
16 preservation division.